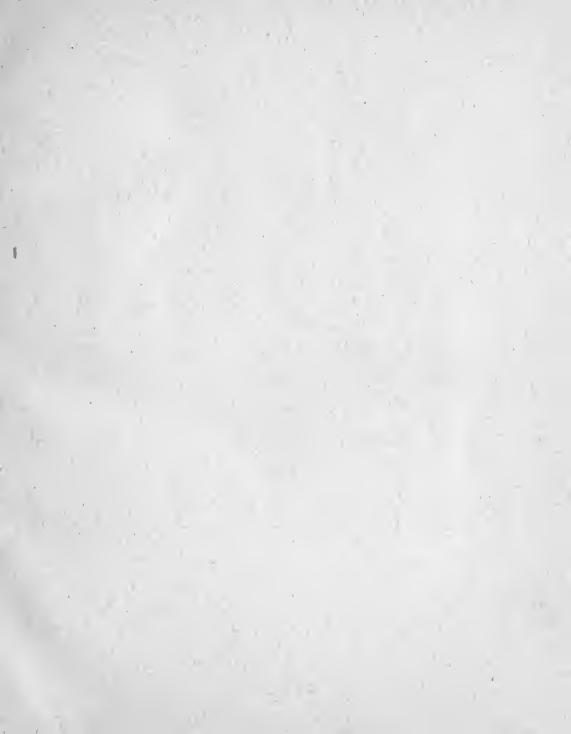




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Palestine





An Epic of the Holy Land

- BY -

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BIBLE STORIES IN VERSE

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In this Epic of the Holy Land the Author has aimed to give in easy flowing measure, the Story of the Bible, pertaining to some of its most salient features, beginning with the Patriarchs and Prophets; and referring to some of the wonderful events in the career of the Nazarine; then picturing many of the phases in the life of its people down through long centuries; referring to the prophecies, of their future national rehabilitation when nations shall learn war no more; with the sword beaten into plow shares, and spears into pruning hooks, and naught to molest or make afraid.

The style and measure of Gray's Elegy, the classic of that immortal Bard, was adopted, and adhered to thruout, as the one best suited to such a subject. The Poem is matchless, in its rhythmic expression of the events pertaining to so lofty a theme, and its Author was TRULY the Amanuensis of SPIRIT in giving it expression, and claims no credit for originality, but regards himself merely the selected channel, chosen by spirit, to proclaim the Epic to all man's race. With unbounded faith in his mission to accomplish so great a work, he confidently submits its lines to the just discrimination of all Authors, Scholars and Poets, of every land and clime.

THE AUTHOR.

PALESTINE

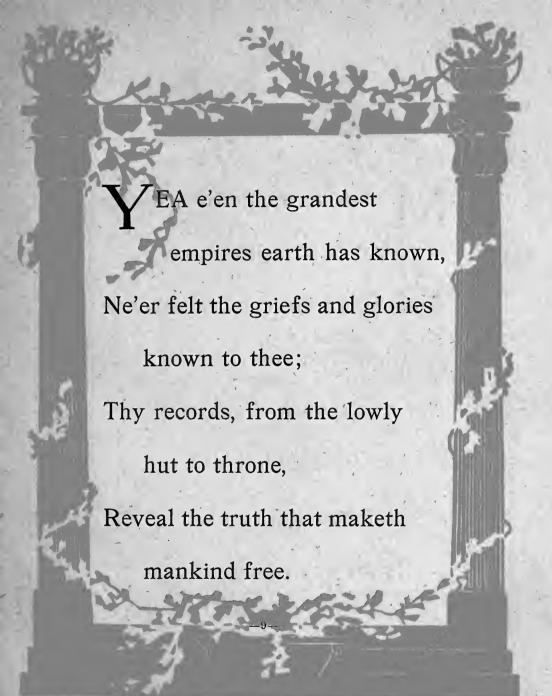
BLEST Holy Land! It bears a sacred name

'Bout that best man, whose feet earth ever trod.

My Muse! Come now, with light of Heaven's flame,

Then it in Truth shall touch the Ark of God.

AY it, most reverent tribute pay thy Shrine, Though few the leagues within thy widest bounds; Thy space, marked on the globe by boundary line, Is small, but in it all of Truth was found.



'HY past, of yesterday's historic lore, Serves all the tender ministries of life; In it through love's and mem'ries sacred store, Its Mission is to heal the world of strife.

ITS records of great prophets, priests and Kings,

Of deeds and words, told in our parents' way,

Holds yet the thoughts of wise and old and sings,

Through all the years of time's eternal day.

ER maiden dreams of days that were to dawn, Light Sweet Rebecca's face beside the well, Love's herald, one from far away comes on; She goes with him in strange far

lands to dwell.

O greet the bridal morn, and husband's smile; Leaves father's roof forever, and its fold; Proceeds with Herald many a weary mile, That she her lover's face might first behold.

ND next of her first loved but latest won, By him the first to bear proud Israel's name; The loving Rachel, guarding flocks alone, The first one chosen, but the last who came.

'HRO' service long, twice seven weary years, Of Jacob's toil to gain her heart and hand; At life's sad close she sought her grave in tears, In sight of Bethlehem-her native land.

UR hearts as, this pathetic tale is told,

In every clime o'er earth and land and sea,

Are filled with grief—all ages young or old,

All peoples, nations, races bond or free.



HROUGH her sweet loves, supremest words—all time Were spoke: and since then, every wooer's speech Is beggared by her words of love sublime That seem beyond poor common mortal's reach.

IN Judah's land there, too, are seen those dames

Of iron heart, of hammer and of spear;

Judith and Jael, fierce and deadly names:

Killed foes who slept, and never knew a fear.

E yet may trace in darker out-lines still,

Ahabs dread Queen, whose name stains all the years;

And Naboth's blood, which gave to dogs their fill;

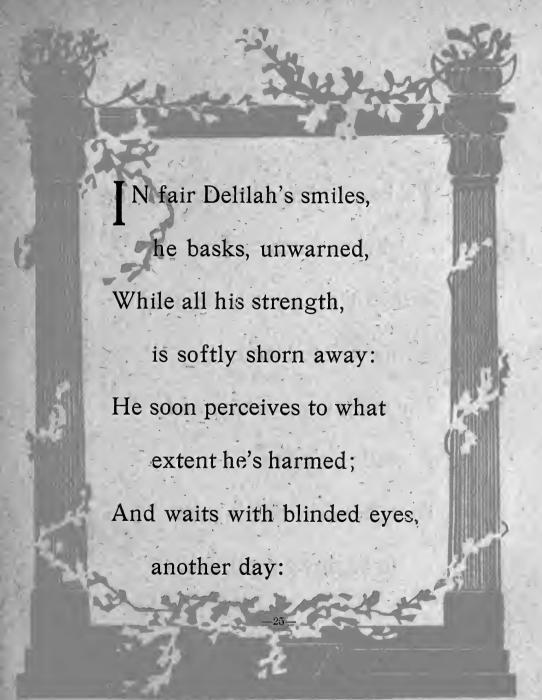
The stolen vineyard—and a world of tears.

UT when earth's noblest one went forth to die, No woman's lips gave forth the taunt of scorn; Nor woman's hand to wield the lash on high, Nor press upon his brow, the crown—the thorn.

O woman's might to drive thro' hands and feet, The cruel nails, or thrust the deadly spear, Into his side: let us again repeat; No woman's hand was here, no, no, not here.

HE Christ, by man betrayed, by man denied, Was e'er by woman loved, by her adored; She, last to leave her dead at even tide, And first at morn, to greet the risen Lord.

N battle's rage thy strong man rushes forth, Armed with a jawbone, that he wielded well; The enemy succumbs and falls to earth; Then he soon falls a prey to beauty's spell.



TILL there shall grow, his locks of strength again;

Then pulls the rock-built temples, pillars down;

Expires, in midst of foes, 'mong thousands slain;

A vict'ry worthy of a victor's crown.

WE also read, of fair-haired winsome lad,

From father's flocks to camps of warriors brave;

Who from a babbling brook, some pebbles had

Placed in his sling; a mighty cause to save.

THE giant fell to rise on earth no more;

The weaker arm was nerved to win the fight.

It ever shall be thus all nations o'er;

The wrong shall ever fall before the right.

ND o'er thy distant past the clouds hang low, The lightning's flash, revealing Gibeon's sword; A down the stream of time, we hear and know, The thunders of Jehovah, thro' his word.

As when on Gideon's heights, was conflict waged;

Joshua bidding the Sun and moon stand still;

At his command they halt, while battle raged;

Stood fixed—Ajalons vale, and Gideon's hill.

ITH clashing swords and loosened bows was rife, The field thus bristling, with its stabbing spears; And victor's shouts, mingled with ebbing life, And lives gone out midst gaping wounds and tears.

ARTH'S longest day at last was changed to night, And every foe that met that morning's fray, In death was stilled, or far away in flight, When rose the sun on next succeeding day.

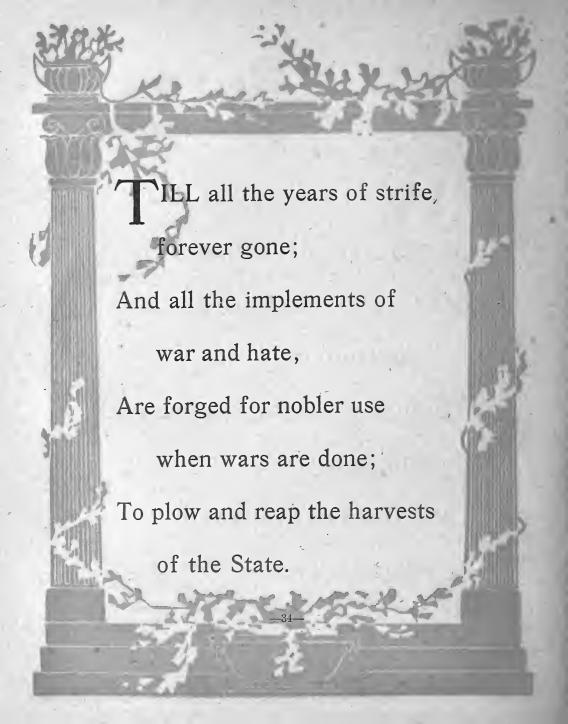
HER warriors brave as earth hadst ever known,

Since mortal man with mortal man

e'er strove

For mas-ter-y of peoples or a throne,

Or yet shall strive, till earth is ruled by love.



HEN every race shall dwell in tents of peace; And if grave doubts along their pathway rise, Their Sages wisdom shall make war to cease, And view God's glory in a Nation's eyes.

OD'S wisdom doth from misty lines divide, Between the false and true, and guides us still; And teaches us in truth to ere abide; And thro' his law, to do our FATHER'S will.

A ND when earth's councils

meet in pomp so great,

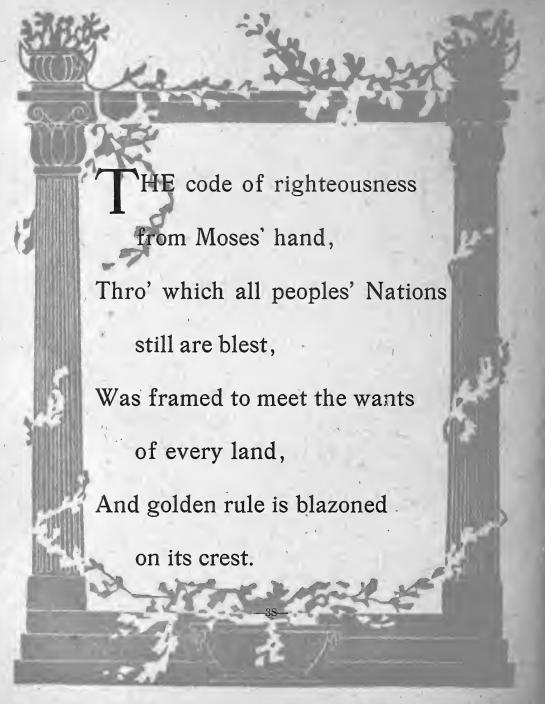
To reconstruct the temple

of their laws,

Each statute, framed to build the laws of State,

On Moses' code is based

for primal cause.



THY Poets sang in measures sweet and long;

And thro' the world, their echoes grandly sweep

Down all the years, on starcrowned heights of song:

Made millions, on old earth, rejoice or weep.

HE sweetest strains that mortal lips ere sung, Were heard in Judah's land, mid strifes and wars, And sweeter than the words of lips or tongue, Or voice-less music, of the morning stars

HRO' Heaven's high changeless one, thy prophets wrote,

Who knew all future, and all past as well;

And saw thro' thrice a thousand years just note;

Their visions do these latter days foretell.

HE day springs crescent flame, their eyes saw true; A-down long years, as thousands drifted by, The tears of grief on cold dead faces view; All this and yet didst know, their God was nigh;

ND borne upon love's wing-ed words, we hear Sweet notes of joy, when winters days are o'er; Mid songs of birds and victors hymns of cheer, Like joyous laughter's peals, on wings to soar.

BEYOND the vale whereon death's shadow lies,

Thy prophets rested, on the arm that leads;

The fetters of the grave, asunder flies;

And in the stars, his destiny, man reads.

E clasps the hands of loved ones waiting there, And balm of leaves, from life's immortal tree, Heals every hurt of grief of pain, despair; While truth spreads out afar o'er every Sea.

HOSE rippling waves, like mingled glass with fire, Spread out o'er plains of formless earth and clod, And all the souls of earth, redeemed, as-pire To drink from living springs, near throne of God.

E read of old, there stood on mountain crest, The "prophet guide," who saw unrolled afar, Cross Jordan's stream, the promised land of rest; Just one long glimpse, thence did his sight debar.

One glimpse, then turned away to look no more,

And found a grave, not made by mortal hand,

Not seen by human eye, ah, never more,

The prophet's viewless grave, near "Promised Land."

A DOWN the stream of Jordan's rocky way,

From Hermon's Mount to Sea of Gal-i-lee,

Where fishers' nets are spread along today,

Yea, downward still—where Sodom used to be:

ND old "Gomorrah," too, both under waves, That roll, 'neath pitying stars, that shine on high, O'er the curst cities, in their watery graves, Forever hid, from gaze of human eye.

IS now small stream, a mighty brook, scarce more;

Upon its breast no sea-borne commerce floats;

Its waves no barges plow—a barren shore;

A stream where boys might play, with rafts and boats.

N thoughts that sometimes sway the souls of men, It seems to flow, twixt lands of faith and doubt, Or sweeps the bounds of earth and Heaven, then; It puts the Amazons of timeto rout.

N Judah's land held sacred whole earth round, All kindred's tongues and races, bond or free, The works of God's own precious son, were found; His words revealing truth, that all may see.

A S sorrow's child he knew both grief and woe;

And from his crucifix there reaches now,

His dear hand out, in all this world below,

To soothe and comfort every aching brow.

REBUKING those whose lives were living lies,

And scorning those who trampled on the poor,

Or saw the "motes" in other people's eyes,

(But not "beams" in their own)
we may be sure.

THESE whited Sepulchers—false lives—deceit:

Rebuked with words, like viper's fangs that sting,

Made record, of their wrong spent lives complete,

That through all ages since, is heard to ring.

ITH knotted cords, from temple of most high, He sternly drove the money changers forth; But quick to hear the faintest human cry, His heart went out to all the sons of earth.

Healed disease of ev'ry form and name;

The deaf were made to hear, the blind to see;

The lepers cleansed, and ev'ry kind of claim:

To all he spoke the truth and set them free.

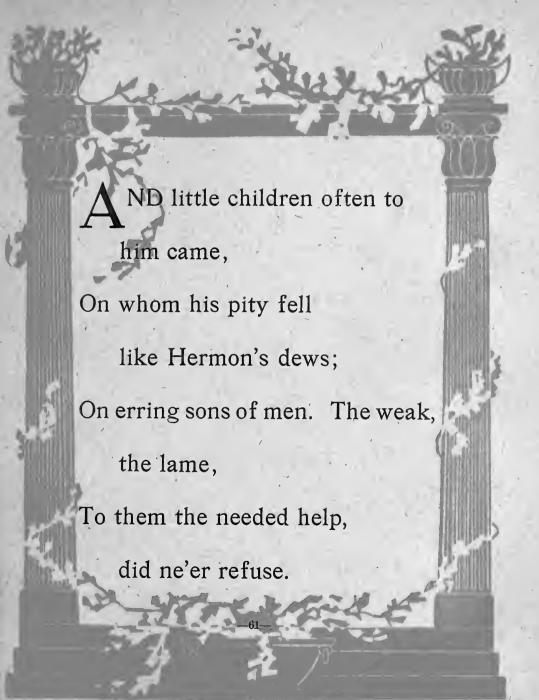
THE sinner, too, He cleansed by spoken word:

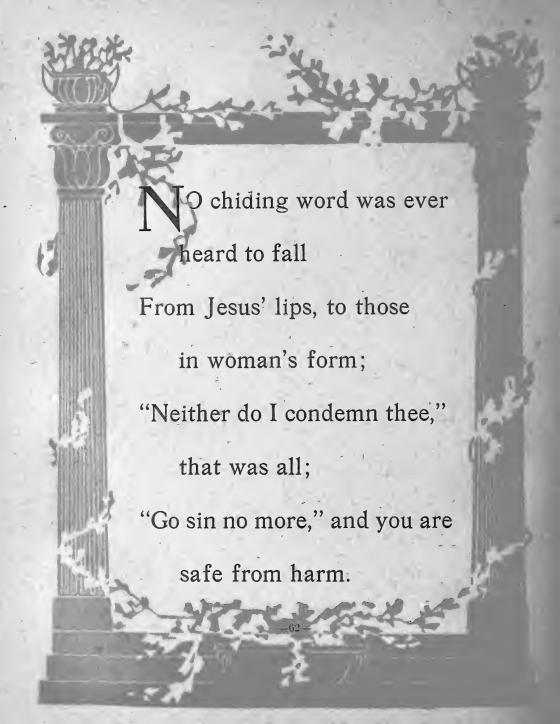
He raised the dead, did from the coffin save;

He said to Lazarus, "Come forth," he heard,

Arose at once, and came from out the grave.

HE widow's son, Jairius' daughter, too, Restored to life, by Christ, GOD'S CHOSEN ONE, Who said, these works His followers, should do; And greater, through believers, should be done.





HUS spake the Christ to one who strayed aside Like some plumed bird, from happy leafy nest; In mire and dirt, its brilliant plumes to hide; In ways of wrong, that always bring un-rest.

BY sinful, wicked men, she was accused,

Whose hearts he searched, with keen and biting truth;

To answer him, they silently refused;

And from his presence shrank, abashed, forsooth.

THEN trembling stood the culprit, all alone,

And on her head sweet words of mercy fell,

"Go thou in peace, and sin no more,

—atone";

(That's what he said or meant), and all is well.

Fall earth's myriad souls, this Prince of God, Unmatched in chivalry, in love supreme; No purer, better one, earth ever trod: His burden was forgiveness, it doth seem.

'HE proudest badge that earth's poor mortals wear, Was once the cross, from which his spirit passed; The crown that mocked his brow, and golden hair, Is greatest diadem, of all earth hast.

SO poor in life, He owned no resting place;

Now, earth is filled with temples for His praise,

In death 'tween thieves, was meant for His disgrace;

But millions fought for tomb, in later days.

REAT marshalled hosts, the crusades war didst wage From many lands and climes, to wrest His grave From land of infidels, through long, dark age; O'er which their flag in triumph, still doth wave.

IS standard floats above Imperial Rome; But not o'er "David's City" of "Great King", Doth she still wait alone, His coming "Home"? "Till Shiloh's Bride," shall make the welkin ring?

SOME claimed that Christ would be Judea's King;
To free her land from Caesar's

To free her land from Caesar's iron sway;

And would the Kingly crown of David bring

His false accusers, charged this in his day.

BY Roman laws in Roman Court, 'twas tried;

A Roman Judge announced the sad decree;

'Twas Roman thorns and nails and spear for side:

His soul was launched from Roman cross or tree.

THE seamless garb that
wrapped his human form,
Was portioned off, by Roman dice
there thrown;

And Pilate, with his crafty smile of scorn,

In pretense, washed his hands when deed was done.

ADE bold to charge the crime, 'gainst Judah's race; And that foul seed sown in the soil of time, Has grown through all the years still grows apace; Its yield is tears and shame, in every clime.

Nall the ages since, its upas bloom, Has poisoned fairest lands beneath the sun; Stains Russia's snows today, with blood and gloom; Spares not the aged, nor the little one.

WHAT heinous wrongs, long years have piled on thee;
Thy God who sees, with sleepless eye may know;

Few lifted voices, hands thro' epochs we;

See in defense; as ages onward flow.

THE torches lighted at thine altar fires,

Were tossed as burning brands around the world;

Yea, far and wide, dread dragon teeth of wars,

In every land where Jews didst live, were hurled.

ARTH'S arm-ed hosts rushed forth to seize the prey; Mohammed's Hordes, from dark Arabia's sands, Invoked the name of God, to maim and slay, The scattered homeless ones from Judah's lands.

N every Jewish head, was set a price;

Their foes, from every earthly quarter, came;

The earth was drenched in blood, for love of Christ;

'Twould flush the prince of devils cheek, with shame.

HO' thro' all earth known lands, their homes are made; But like that form of life, that takes its hue From trees or rock whereon it rests; each shade It rests upon, becomes its color true:



HEY think and speak and learn, in alien tongues; And yet are sons of Abraham, alway; Their curses, thro' all lands, are voiced, and rung; And ere have been, since crucifixion day.

in old clothes, refuse:

Insulting epithets on ev'ry hand;

To them some well known,
Christian people use;

These terms of hate, reproach, in ev'ry land.

UT fair to look upon, thy daughters are, In grace and charms, of noble womanhood. In slums, disgrace and brothels, seldom there, But pure and chaste and true, among the good.

IS said when master workman, made earth, sun:-When all its new-crowned beauties, round him lay, Before His Sabbath rest, from toil was done; He left the gates of Heaven ajar, that day:

HEN "Mother love," the tenderest thought of Him; There, nestling in a woman's heart, was found, And linked with man's, filled measure to the brim; And since has filled old earth, the world around.

ROM man's first breath, until her days are o'er,

He needs no earthly balm, to bind his wound:

None ere but mothers, on this mundane shore,

For none like hers, who loved him first, is found.

THINE eager sons, the world around are known;

Their eagle faces, throng the marts of trade;

Earth's jewels, diamonds, gold and precious stone,

Are owned by Jews, of ev'ry class and grade.

HEY hold in grasp, the treasures of each land 'Tis thro' their hands, earths streams of gold are poured; And mighty Empires, Kingdoms great and grand, Must come to them—where earth's great wealth is stored:

ND bring the bonds, those yet unborn, shall pay; Ere sword is drawn, or shot of mighty gun Is heard around the world, some sudden day, When carnage 'tween two nations has begun.

MMORTAL race, none like it e'er before;

Has lived five thousand years, yea, never dies;

Accurst, peeled, scattered, haled all countries o'er;

No pity ever found, to heed their cries:

ND yet has lived, survived thro' all the days, That reach from Jacob down, five thousand years; And left their mark, with stamped impress always, Mid persecutions, wars, oppressions, tears.

HROUGH all the years, some genius of their race Has risen high above earth's gentile brood; Stands out like "Beaconsfield," with shining face, And mid earth's storms and trials, stands for good.

UR thoughts just now span thro' five thousand years; From Jacob's son, to England in our day; From Joseph to Disraeli, both great seers, Through whom we see, God ever led the way.

ROUND the world by fireside, tale is told, Of Jacob's sons-en route for Egypt's grain; And how by them was youngest, (Joseph) sold, For stated sum, to Ishmaelites, for gain.

HE youthful dreamer, soon was found to stand By Pharaoh's throne, to where he dreamed his way; Became that Monarch's guide, for Egypt's land; Through troublous times and famine, in that day.

WHEN rain came not, and dews had ceased to fall;

And famine reigned, in Jacob's country sore;

'Twas told, "There's corn in Egypt, 'nough for all";

And thousands hastened there, to lay in store.

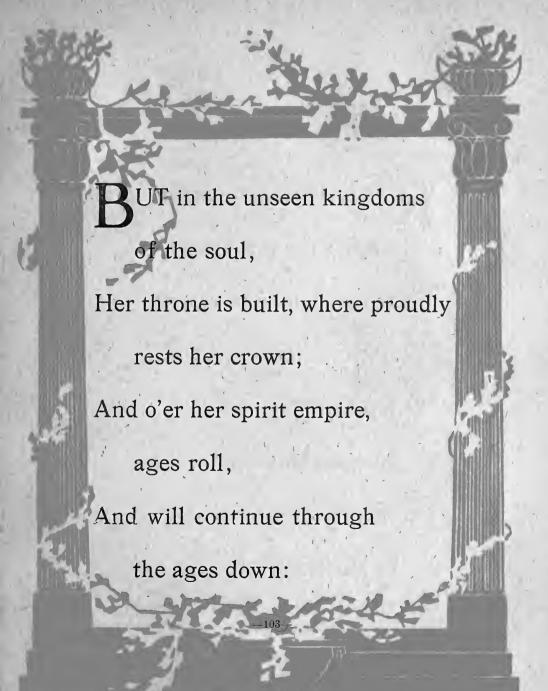
ROM Canaan far, came Joseph's brothers then, From withered fields, and starving flocks of kine; Thro' weary lands they came, these famished men; With gold, to purchase food, and corn and wine.

ND there, they found the prince of Egypt's land Was Joseph, whom they once had sold as slave; These strange events, were guided by God's hand; From great distress, his famished ones to save.

TIRST exile of his race, his fame is spread Beyond the everlasting hills of time; Another one, who sleeps, with England's dead, Was great premier, Disraeli, man sublime!

E stood beside earth's greatest throne, as guide To Queen of greatest empire, man has made; His power was greater than all men beside; Dwarfed, Gentile Peers, and laid them in the shade.

OUND Oceans' shores, in all earth's regions known, No foot of land now claims Judea's sway, No sails or flag, on any breezes blown; Or ship on earth, belongs to her today.



THL all earth's sons, of ev'ry race and clime,

Till every soul, born since earth's morning hour,

Is through rebirth, and spirit growth in time;

Reflecting God, in wisdom, life and power.

ROM Holy men of old, through Palestine, Their thoughts, didst light the path, adown the years; The path that leads to God, in straightest line, From carnal life, from sin, disease and tears.

THEIR words from Him, are woven in our speech;

They come as light and truth, on ev'ry wave;

Above the low baptismal fount they reach;

Bind marriage vows, and stand beside the grave.

TEAR-BLINDED eyes, can
see beyond the tomb
To mansions in the happy
summer-land;
Where all earth's children, will
at last find room,
In life of growth and progress,

ever grand.

ARTH'S wearied children, seek in many ways,

Thro' creeds and sects, that sever man from man;

In hopes and fears, strive for unending days;

But life immortal, is for all, God's plan.

IN Palestine was first revealed to man,

The first faint glimpse of God, Eternal one,

Who sends the spring time and the harvest grand,

The treasures of the earth, and rain and sun.

ENDS gorgeous visions, of the changing year, And tints the petals, of the opening rose, Paints sunset glories, on the skies so clear, And wafts His love, on ev'ry breeze that blows.

GOD spoke, and lo from out this void of time,

The orb of day, in all its glory shows;

And earth whereon God's works revealed, sublime;

And sister worlds, that gem the night arose.

IKE bees that fly from flower, bloom to bloom, His blazing comets flit across the sky; Each bearing rays of light, through paths of gloom, To yield results, through ages by and by.

HE forms the whirling stardust into worlds,

And scatters blazing suns throughout all space;

While circling planets, each on axis whirls,

With each through law, forever in its place.

EYOND the stars, where worlds are lost to sight, Still there is found, God's truth and mercy seat; That rule His universe from farth'rest night, And glows in earth's green carpet, at our feet.

HEN earth's and heaven's scroll of time is read; And great e-ter-ni-ty, forever done; God's care still lasts for all earth's living, dead; For all, both young and old, yea, every one.

HE Gods of Greece are gone, like vanished dream; Gone, yea! the shrine, of once the mighty Jove. Dark Isis reigns no more, on Egypt's stream; But Israel's God, still reigns, the God of love.

AIR Palestine still stands beside the Sea; Conquered by Babylon, and Egypt yea; And her great walls of pride, that used to be; Were felled by Titus, when old Rome held sway.

THE fierce barbarians took thy land by sword; And captured all thy sons, in cruel war; And sold thy daughters down, to nameless word; And Judah's harps were hung, on willows far.

HROUGH far off lands, thy scattered children wail Among the sons of men, a homeless race; Thy name with curses yet, do men assail; In many lands and almost ev'ry place.

HY neck in ev'ry land, bears alien yoke; And Moslem's hoof, is on thy soil today; Where once in Temple's Halls, thou didst invoke The name of God, in peace and praise, alway.

HERE sunbeams then, flashed from its roofs of gold; Now base-born Janizaries, scoff thy name; And ragged beggars, far from Christian fold, Make light of ev'ry Christian work, or claim.

JPON the stone, that seals

Judea's tomb,

In many folds, long centuries are laid;

From earth's far ends, thy children yet shall come,

With faith like rock, of which thy hills are made.

THEY yet shall hear thy
Shilohs' homeward call;

When by thy mount, the great law-giver stands;

With Judah's hosts returned then one and all;

From scattered homes, from exile, all earth's lands.

SOON 'neath wide brooding wings of cherubim,

The presence of Shekinah comes once more;

A Moses, in this age of twilight dim,

To lead thee to the Promised land's great shore.

GONE now thy dreams, with tidings from on high;

The visions gone, thy children once didst see;

And mourning all these evil days, with sigh,

With lifted hands, we pray this prayer, for thee:

PRAYER.

OH, thou Jehovah God, who from of old,

Didst Israel guide, by moving cloud by day

And fire by night, in pillars, we are told;

Hear us, oh God, for Judah's land we pray.

THY hand built watery walls, on either side,

Ledst Judah's feet, dry shod, across the Sea;

And smote the King Sennech'rib, in his pride;

And made his shattered hosts, from sight to flee.

THY stricken children, heal them, Lord, again;

And to them be, their falchion and their shield.

The barbed and poison shafts of hate and pain,

May they be turned; none to them hence to yield.

IFT up their hearts, oh God, from carnal thing;

And lead their thoughts again, to love of thee;

And when the fullness of the years shall bring,

From out-most isles and countries over Sea

THINGS strange from far may Israel's race, returned,
Once more abide within their father's land;

And may they all, from lessons fully learned,

Dwell there, be fed, by thine own bounty grand,

ON corn and wine, grapes
purpling in the sun
That shines on hills and vales,
of PALESTINE.

Give them again, we pray thee, every one,

The "Holy vision," and the dream divine.

THAT Daniel knew, as captive foreign land;

Or Jacob saw, where Nile's grand river runs;

And there to give his last of earth's command,

Called round his couch of death, his many sons.

TEACH them, oh God, that worship pleasing thee,

Must come from lives, that strive to thee obey;

That temples builded for thy praise, shouldst be

The contrite heart, as taught by Christ—His day:

HAT noblest off'ring, on thine altars laid, Is still the kindly deed, in kindness done; Makes purer incense, too, of higher grade, Than any other worship, 'neath the Sun.

RING promised years of peace, that wait with Thee; When nations war no more, God speed the time And when Thy will is done o'er land and sea; And none shall be afraid, in any clime.

AND when earth's days, of time and change, are gone,
And mighty firmament, shall pass away;

Like garments that are laid aside and done,

Made white, from ev'ry stain, of earthly clay.

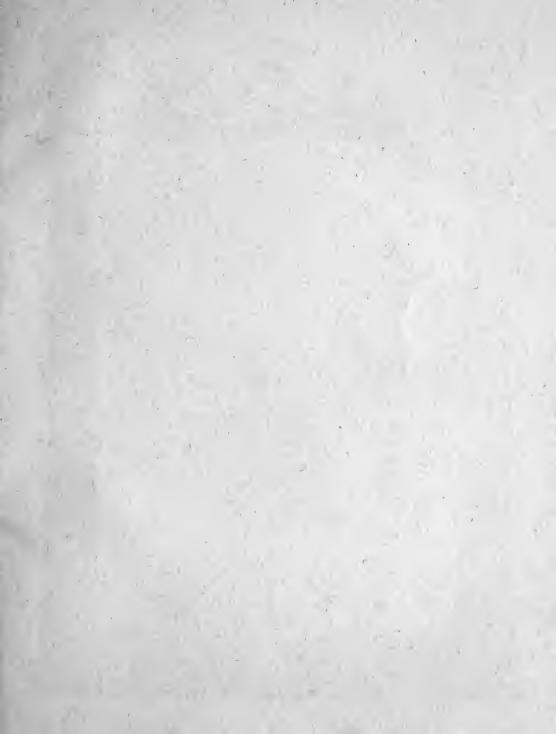
SAVED thro' the dear example, of thy son;

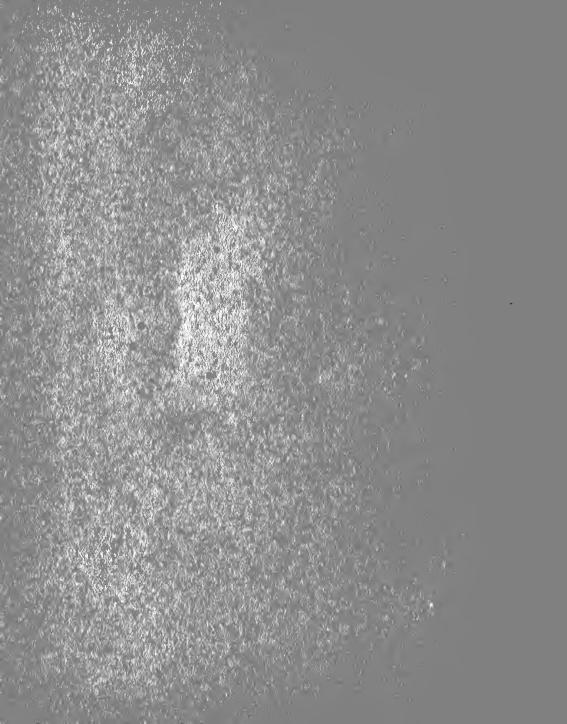
May Jews and Gentiles,
gather home to dwell!
In that fair City, may they,
be as one,

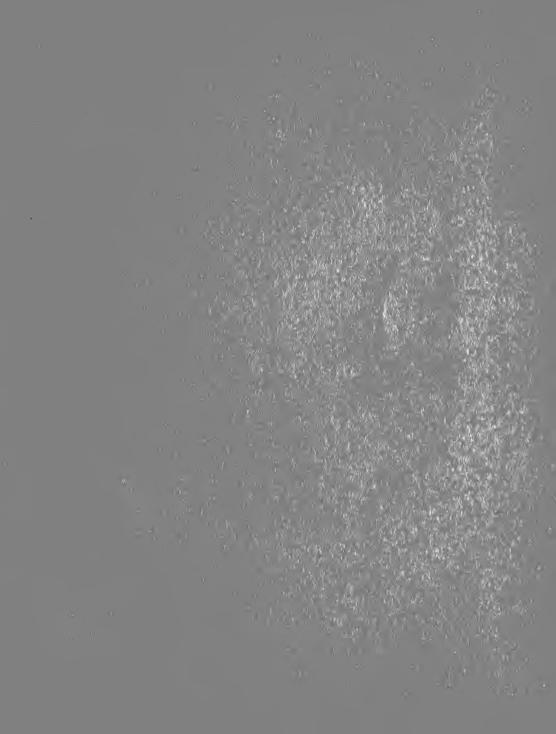
And know thro' all the ages—ALL IS WELL.

Finis.













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